

APPLICANT(S): PLESTED, Joyce S. et al.
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows:

1-47. Canceled.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for eliciting in a host an antibody that specifically binds to a second inner core of lipopolysaccharide of~~recognizes~~ *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising [[an]] a first inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and is substantially free from outer core lipopolysaccharide, wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HcpII moiety of said first inner core of said *Neisseria* LPS, wherein said antibody ~~binds to~~ [[an]] a second inner core LPS of *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a galE mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.

49. (Cancelled)

50-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) A method of immunizing a host against *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising [[an]] a first inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and is substantially free from outer core lipopolysaccharide, wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HcpII moiety of said

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first inner core of said ~~Neisseria~~ LPS, whereby an antibody is elicited that binds to ~~[[an]]~~ a second inner core LPS of *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a galE mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.

56. (Cancelled)

57-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein said second inner core LPS of said ~~Neisseria meningitidis~~ immunotypes ~~L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS of said Neisseria meningitidis immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein said second inner core LPS of said ~~Neisseria meningitidis~~ immunotypes ~~L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule of a Neisseria meningitidis strain.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein said ~~immunogenic composition comprises~~ said first inner core of a ~~Neisseria~~ LPS is conjugated to a protein or peptide.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein said first inner core of a ~~Neisseria~~ LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.

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66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said second inner core ~~LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12.
67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said second inner core ~~LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule of a *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.
68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said ~~immunogenic composition comprises said~~ first inner core ~~of a *Neisseria* LPS~~ is conjugated to a protein or peptide.
69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said first inner core ~~of a *Neisseria* LPS~~ is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.
70. (Currently Amended) A method for eliciting in a host an antibody that recognizes a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising [[an]] a first inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and is substantially free from outer core lipopolysaccharide, wherein a phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a HepII moiety of said first inner core ~~of said *Neisseria* LPS,~~ wherein said antibody binds to [[an]] a second inner core LPS of a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria*

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meningitidis; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a galE mutant of an L3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein said second inner core LPS of said ~~majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12..

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein said second inner core LPS of said ~~majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule of a *Neisseria meningitidis* strain..

74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein said ~~immunogenic composition comprises~~ said first inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is conjugated to a protein or peptide.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein said first inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.

76. (Currently Amended) A method of immunizing a host against a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*, comprising administering to said host an immunogenic composition, said immunogenic composition comprising [[an]] a first inner core of a *Neisseria* lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and is substantially free from outer core lipopolysaccharide, wherein a

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phosphoethanolamine moiety is linked to position 3 of a IIepII moiety of said first inner core of said *Neisseria* LPS, whereby an antibody is elicited that binds to ~~[[an]]~~ a second inner core LPS of a majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*; and is capable of conferring passive protection against a galE mutant of an I.3 immunotype *Neisseria meningitidis* strain.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein said second inner core LPS of said ~~majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of an outer core LPS of said *Neisseria meningitidis* immunotypes L1, L3, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, and L12.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein said second inner core LPS of said ~~majority of naturally occurring strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*~~ is accessible to said antibody in a presence of a bacterial capsule of a *Neisseria meningitidis* strain..

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein said ~~immunogenic composition comprises said~~ first inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is conjugated to a protein or peptide.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein said first inner core of a *Neisseria* LPS is an inner core of a *Neisseria meningitidis* LPS.